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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shigeaki Kato et al.

Art Unit : 1646

Serial No. : 09/489,198

Examiner : J. Murphy

Filed : January 20, 2000

Title : GENE SCREENING METHOD USING NUCLEAR RECEPTOR

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/L

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed April 19, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 8-11 as follows:

sub D7
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8. (Twice Amended) A method for screening for a gene encoding a polypeptide that converts a ligand precursor into a ligand, the method comprising

(A) introducing a test gene into a cell comprising (i) a vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a nuclear receptor and (ii) a vector comprising a binding sequence to which the nuclear receptor binds and, located downstream of the binding sequence, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter molecule,

(B) contacting a ligand precursor with the cell into which the test gene is introduced,

(C) evaluating the activity of the reporter molecule relative to the activity of the reporter in the absence of the test gene, an increase in activity indicating that the test gene encodes a polypeptide that converts the ligand precursor into a ligand that activates the nuclear receptor; and

(D) isolating the test gene from the cell if the cell shows an increase in reporter activity.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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